

REMARKS

Claims 1-24, 27-31 and 34-36 are pending in the application. It is gratefully acknowledged that Claims 4-8, 14-17, 23, 24, 30 and 31 have been allowed. Also it is gratefully acknowledged that Claims 4-8 have been rejected under §112, second paragraph, but would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections or objections. The Examiner rejected Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner has rejected Claims 35 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Thomas et al. (U.S. Patent 6,647,078). The Examiner has rejected Claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuchi et al. (U.S. Patent 6,542,556). The Examiner has rejected Claims 9, 10, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuchi et al. in view of Whinnett et al. (U.S. Patent 6,317,411). The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 11-13, 20-22 and 27-29 under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over Kim et al. (U.S. Patent 6,690,712).

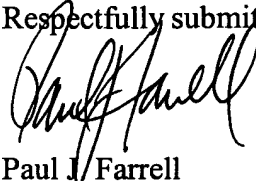
Please cancel Claims 9, 10, 18, 19 and 34, without prejudice. No new matter has been added.

Since all of the remaining claims, namely Claims 4-8, 14-17, 23, 24, 30 and 31, have been allowed, the application is not believed to be in condition for allowance.

Independent Claims 4, 14, 23 and 30, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Without conceding the patentability per se of dependent Claims 5-8, 15-17, 24 and 31, these are likewise believed to be allowable by virtue of their dependence on their respective amended independent claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of dependent Claims 5-8, 15-17, 24 and 31 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, all of the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 4-8, 14-17, 23, 24, 30 and 31 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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